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what is UTOPIA?

Perfect also means complete, entire, faultless, excellent.

Utopia describes a “new-man” who is ideologically committed to safeguarding the values of ordinary simple life with ideas technologically advanced. so its basically about the handshake and sleep, about talking and dreaming: it is about collecting garbage and making love.

It is a state of perfect being in totality, which can exist for a brief moment; where a new idea becomes the next perfect state.



HOW DO WE PERCEIVE IT?

Many modern architects believe vertical urbanism, under water settlements, floating cities to be the future of mankind. But the speed of technological changes is increasing so fast that many aspects of life that used to be hard and fast realities are now blurring and becoming indistinct, hence redefining modern lifestyle.

As the effect of global rise in sea-levels, the world will be desperately seeking shelter from the devastations of climate change, and hopes that auto-sufficient amphibious cities will serve as a luxurious solution. Thus “Architecture Future” is believed by experts as a new era where artificial intelligence plays a vital role with electronic architecture coming into existence.

The time is gone where tools dominated designs and also the time, designs created tools; now the design is the tool. It is with these tools that life may be freely structured in a cosmic consciousness.

“Thus Architecture coincides ever more with existence: no more to exist sheltered by architecture, but to exist as “architectur@”

The world has enough resources, technology and know-how, to go ahead with projects of this huge scale, while many developing countries including India cannot conceive such an idea to be made possible with the now available know-how and infrastructure.

Indian Context

India has a huge population engaged in agriculture and considering its size, cultural diversity and various other factors make it least possible to conclude to a futuristic design. We can find vast variety in many aspects of architecture and society whose structure is basically as:

VILLAGE > TOWN > CITY > METROPOLITAN

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to be modern is not a fashion. it is necessary to understand history, and he who understands
find continuity between that which was, that which is, and that which will be.

- Le Corbusier



The villagers demand for town life or city life because they think it is perfect, whereas a life in a metro would be unimaginable, whereas a metropolitan citizen would crave for the peaceful stillness of a village life.

People want more and this endless wanting leads them to make changes in their state (physical or of the mind), disrupting the state of being perfect. The grass is always greener on the other side; there are relentless demands, wants and changes leading to new ways of life.

When a person satisfies all of his basic needs (minimum), only then he feels that he is in a state of perfect being. This state is governed by the level of comfort desired and those acquired by the individual. As such it varies from person to person.

So, in our design we are trying to attain perfection at each and every level for people from different lifestyles and also to create a consort with all lifestyles.

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Apportions of spaces into temporary, semi temporary and permanent spaces in all three lifestyles of village , town and city.
Temporary spaces in a village encompasses panchayats ,exhibition spaces where the function of the space is been limited for a short juncture in a day. For a town the mellas (festivals) outlines the transitory space. For a city and metropolis the form and function coexist so transient spaces would not robust.

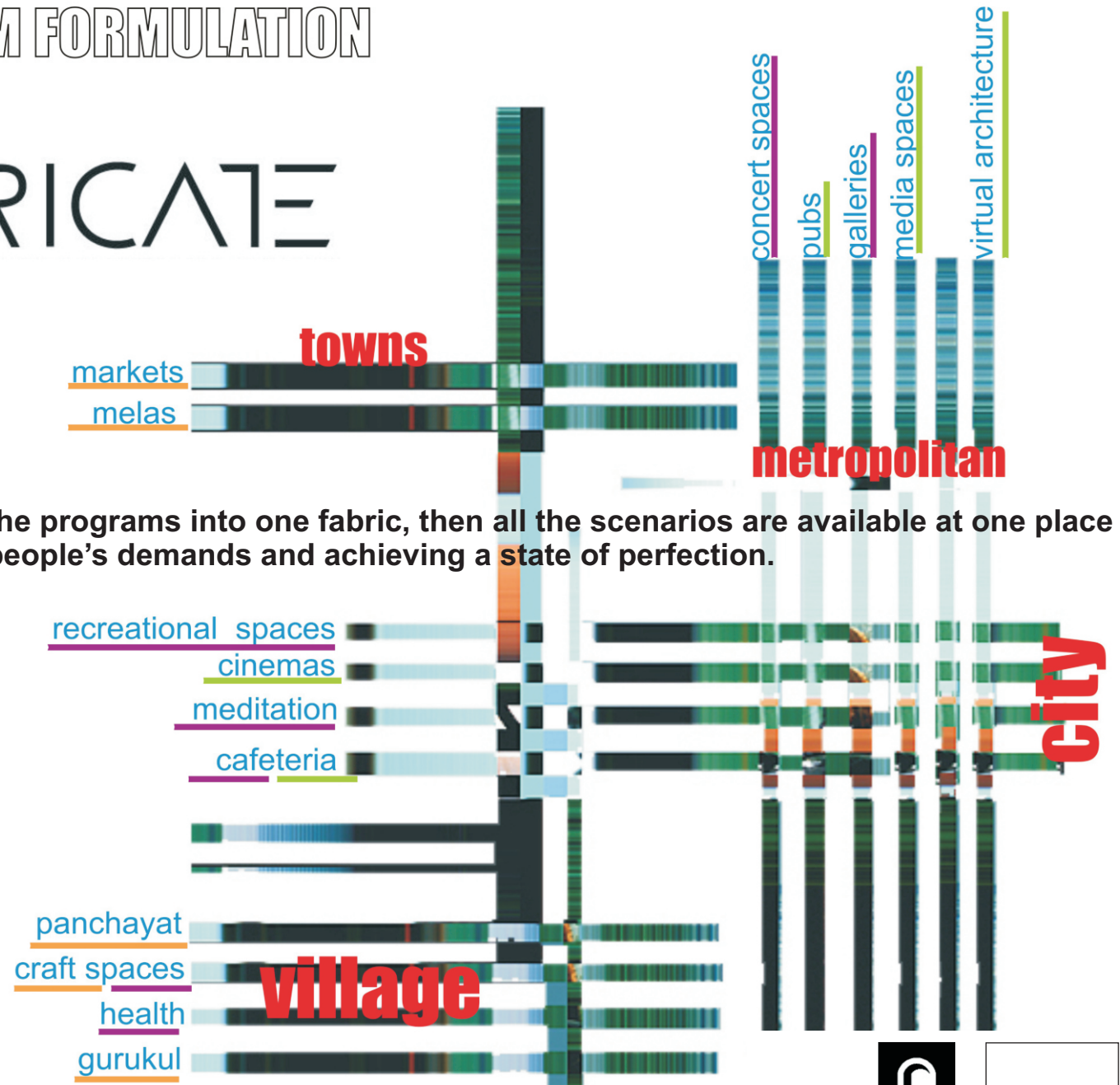
In Semi Temporary spaces the form is for the function but restricted with time. Health care facilities in villages, markets in towns, cafeterias in cities are where the daily function happens for a limited period of time making them semi transient.

- TEMPORARY SPACES
- SEMI-TEMPORARY SPACES
- PERMANENT SPACES

Permanent spaces are those where the form is function. In villages mostly housing only becomes the permanent space . For a town demonstrative spaces to a city are found. A metropolitan city would rather have more of enduring spaces as the city never sleeps.

PROGRAM FORMULATION

FABRICATE



When we merge the programs into one fabric, then all the scenarios are available at one place thus satisfying people's demands and achieving a state of perfection.

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Fact File

The basic geographical and demographic profile of Chandigarh is as under:

Temperature

Winter Min. (Nov.-Jan, 2006) 1° C-16° C

Summer Max. (April-July, 2004) 27°C-44°C

Chandigarh, an introduction to modernism is the first city to be planned by Le Corbusier in year 1953 was first thought to be capital, planned developed by grid system. The capital complex is the main part of the city and placed at the top, but the places behind the complex are left over lands and are not connected to the city, though they depend on the city for all their resources. There has been no further architectural development since that time. Similar system of construction and design are being followed with no innovative ideas. So Chandigarh has served as a model for new settlements across the country.



CITY ON THE MOVE

Chandigarh was planned for a population of half a million. However, Chandigarh has now grown beyond its capacity. Hence development in the third phase has been started in sector 48 and beyond. Demographic data indicate that between 1961 and 1971, the population increased by 144.59 percent, one of the highest for urban areas in India. By 2021, the population of Chandigarh is projected to be around 19.5 lakhs (at current rate of growth) almost four times for which it was originally built.

The city is planned in a grid pattern, along with wide use of exposed concrete as the main construction scheme. This new type of planning and scheme emerged to be inspiring for Indian architects. As a result of which Chandigarh has served as an **exemplar** for Indian architecture for more than five decades. We **are attempting to create a new paradigm.** The city is surrounded by clusters of villages. The site is situated between these settlements and the modern city. The central location of the site will result in an alliance designed for the project.

The site is located at the north of the city, near the high court. A village called Naya Gao is developing at that end without causing any intervention in the original city fabric.

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Concept

The project is exploring the merger of the low rise rural planning and high density urban planning as a way to reinforce local identity of horizon and volume and making use of the intersecting perspective lines to shape the buildings.

Here's a detailed description of the process:

Weave, Shuffle, Intensify...

The homogenous zones within the rural context undermines cross connections and permeability. In the perspective of urban sprawl, large areas are under-utilized.

Intensify

Some key points in the hub will be used for more specific program to create special points of interest. The media centre is one such point and will be given an upgrade to virtual architecture facility. Public activity centers will be points of special interest to the young and old people that spend time in the area.

We have developed three main strategies to merge rural, suburban and urban spaces:

Weave

The forested paths in the villages are places of natural beauty and create a strong sense of place and identity. We propose to infuse the network of paths through the hub to facilitate interconnections and permeability; both at the ground level development and on the upper

Shuffle

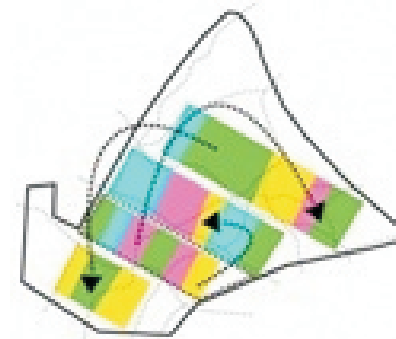
We propose to shuffle the programs in the hub to enhance the life in the area and intensify the utilization of space. Low quality space will be upgraded through this strategy. Examples could be the colonization of suburban spaces as the likes of art and meditational spaces, craft exhibitions, and metropolitan space such as restaurant, pub and media centre. Penetrating these boundaries of political context is an important step in the groundwork for a new identity.



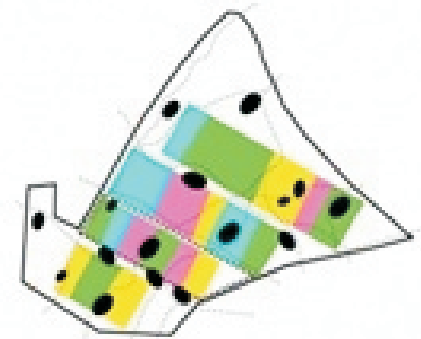
STRIPS



WEAVE



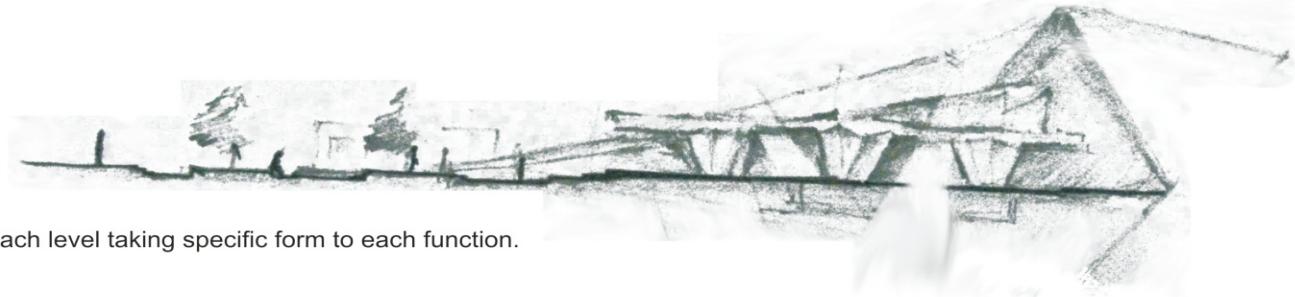
SHUFFLE + FLIP



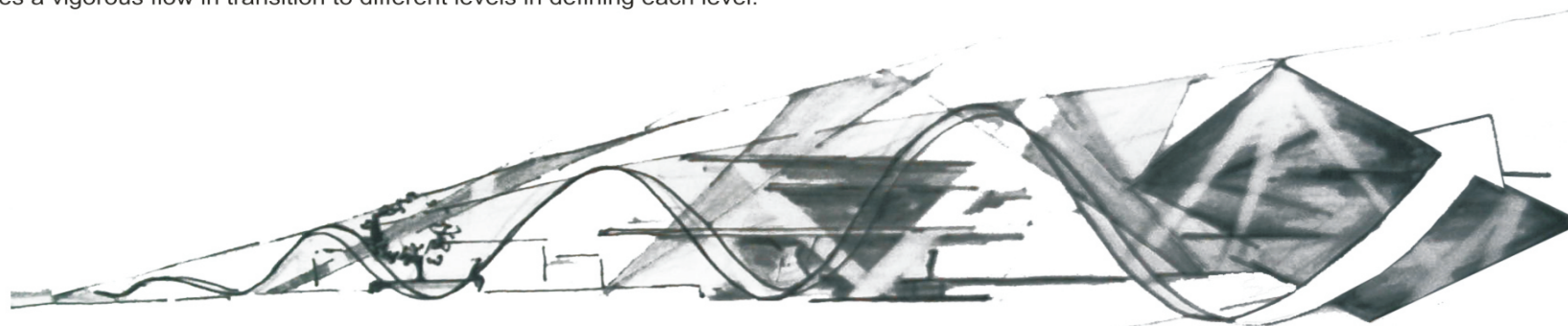
INTENSIFY



The planar and simple form is being overlapped with forms that are more complex with increasing levels. The transition is to show the gradation in society from village to town to city with line complexity.



The design has evolved at each level taking specific form to each function.



Play of light takes a vigorous flow in transition to different levels in defining each level.

A villager can imagine perfection or a better life only till the town level whereas a person from the town can imagine it till the city or metro level.

We can see different individuals have different outlook on their way of living. These perspectives mix in space.

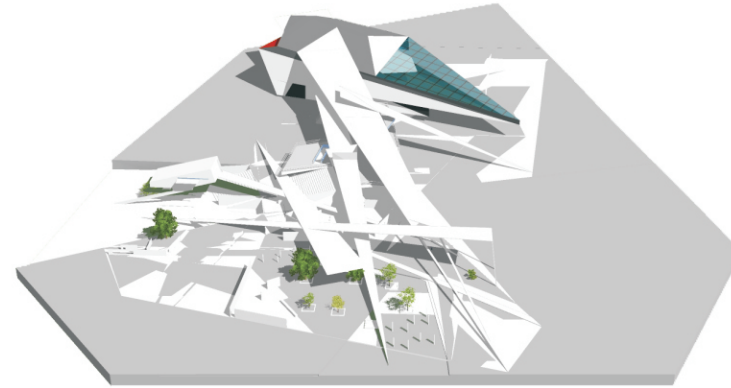
They form a volume in space underneath them. The basic skeletal of the structure is developed on these lines. These lines develop into planes and ramps that act as visual connectors.

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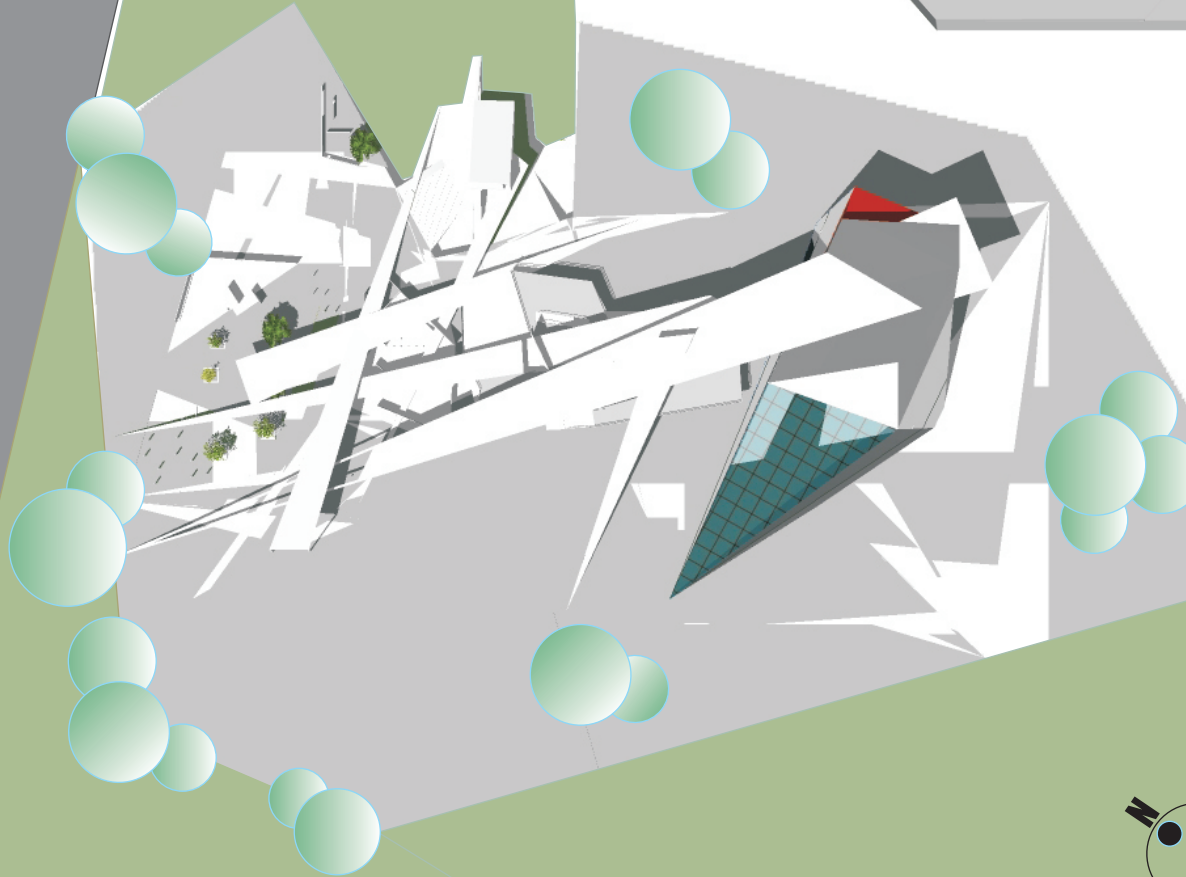


The market space and craft spaces with landscaped area are open to the sky. There is a strong connection between the natural horizon and various spaces within the villages. Such temporal activities infuse the village character such as the clear blue skies accompanied by green patches of land forming the natural horizon into the hub...

There is a space provided for partly temporal activities such as melas, meditation spaces and art exhibitions which imbibe the sense of being in a town to the hub. The towns have a few structural hindrances spread out on the horizon. Gaps are carved out when some of the planes intersect which bring about a beautiful play of light and shadow on the art exhibition space...



SITE PLAN



The intricate city components are resembled by this space that has many levels which can be used for trade events, major expositions, etc. The conurbation has recreational spaces such as bars, restaurant...

The metropolitan skyline is dominated by tall skyscrapers and concrete structures. This factor is imbibed in the conurbation area with the annexure of the media centre with virtual architecture.



The shaping of the volumes brings light in between the spaces and to the facades, but it also gives structures individual character. Through this process we have developed a clear rural & urban typology consisting of a relatively small scale urban unit that is combined with a dense suburban configuration.

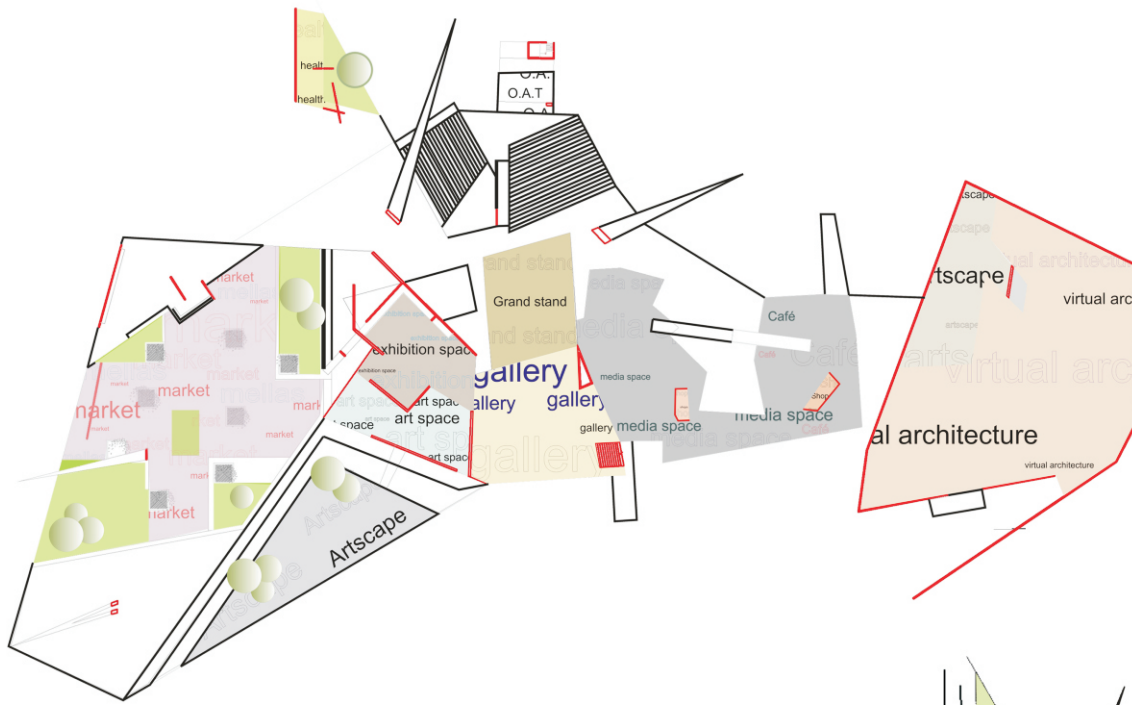
The unit can accommodate proposed programs such as art and recreation centers. There is flexibility within the modules to develop a wide range of recreational solutions ranging from activity centre to meditational space to trade events. The ground floors have all been made as flexible as possible so that they can shift between exhibition and recreational functions. Through a high degree of connection we open up possibilities that the large scale structures can't cater to.

SITE VIEW

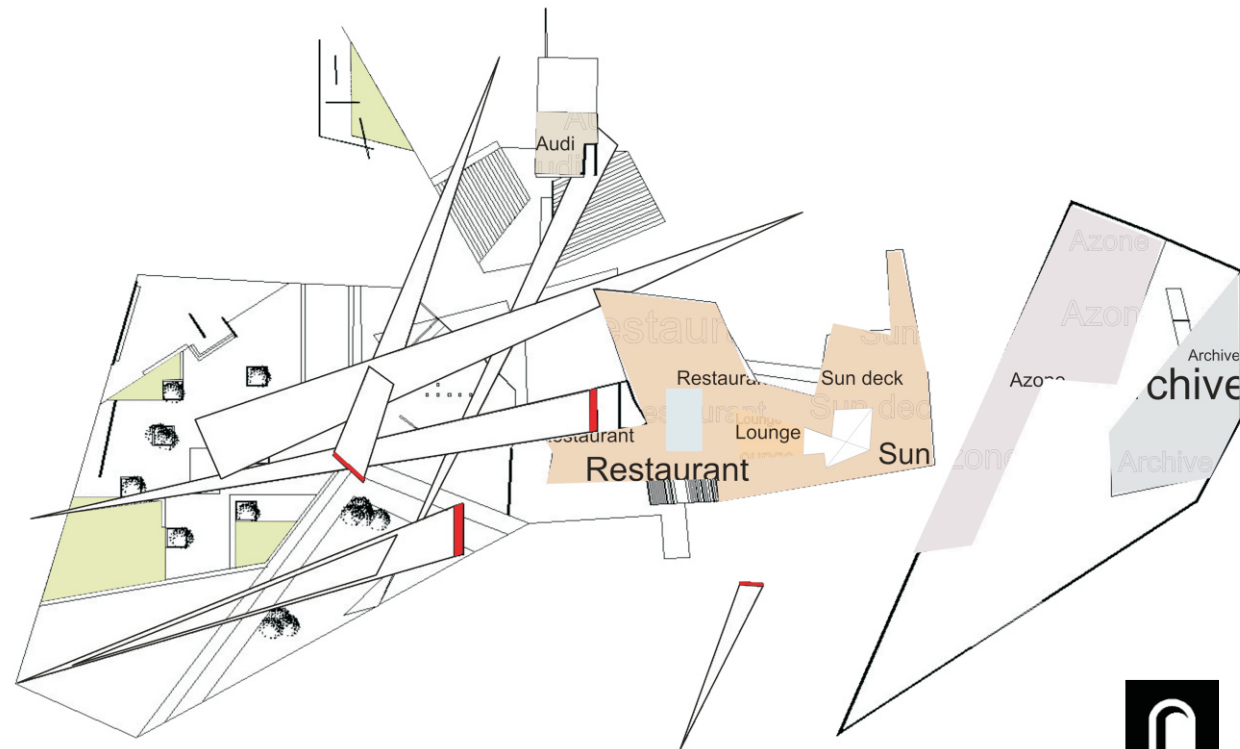
We foresee in the beginning that a few recreational spaces could function in the retail area and vice versa, but we also see that this can be the framework for a development where retail and recreation colonize the entire site. This is the concept we call shuffle.

We create flexibility within the framework of a strong suburban typology of the site. Urban intensity in this context means not so much an extreme number of people on a small lot, it means living and working in close proximity to each other and shared public space.

We have deliberately tried to make the spaces connected to generate types of proximity that will be an addition to the whole area. As permeability is a strategy of the project we added buildings that can easily fit into the fabric with another program. We believe the rural-urban mixed feeling will strengthen the identity of the site, as well as offering an attraction.



PLAN AT LEVEL +/-

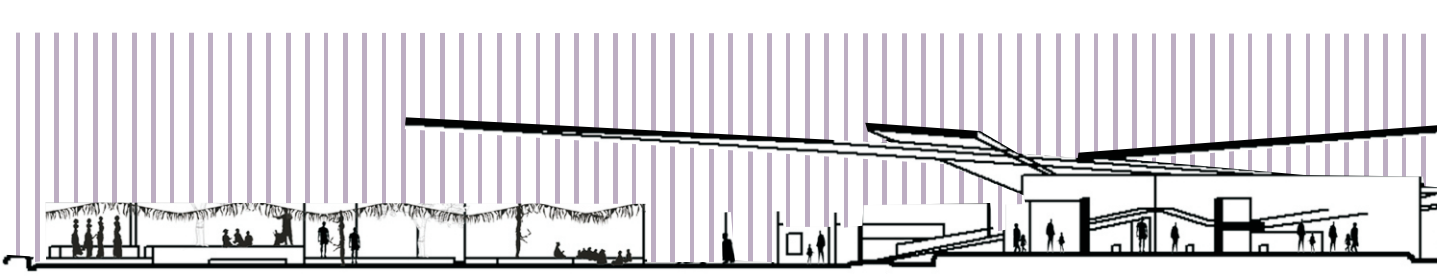


PLAN AT LEVEL

WITH EACH SPACE
AND FUNCTION, THE
VIEW OF HORIZON
IS ACHIEVED.

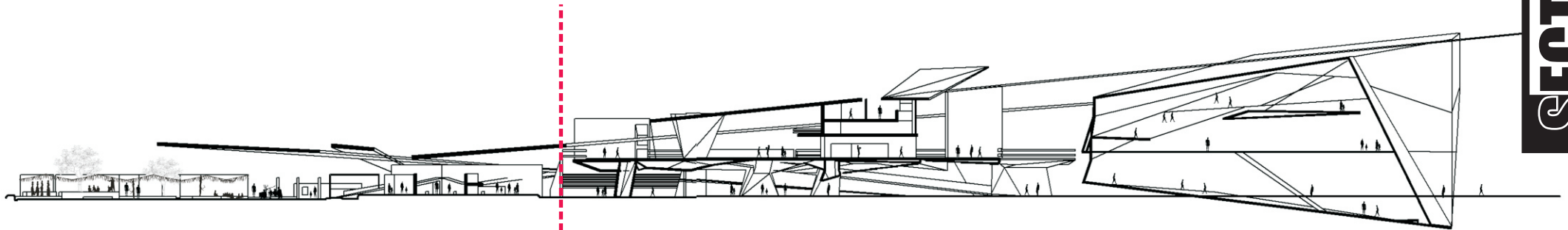
THE STRUCTURE IS
POROUS IN FEATURE
WITH **FREEDOM OF
MOVEMENT** TO ANY

PLAN

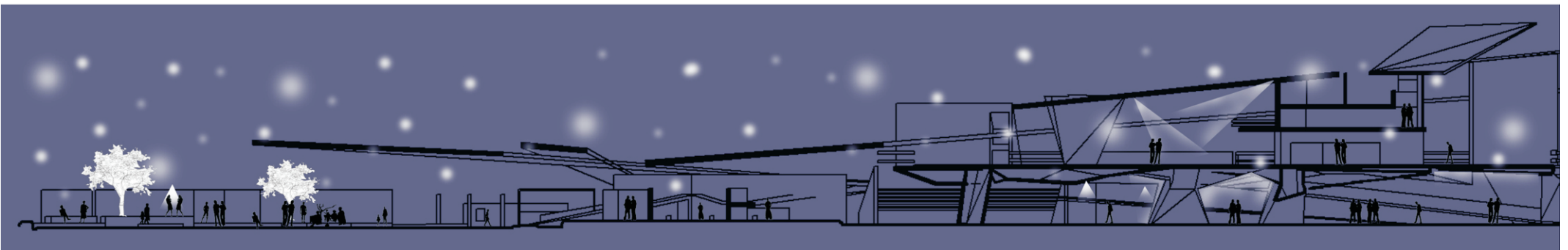


DETAIL OF SECTION A-A'

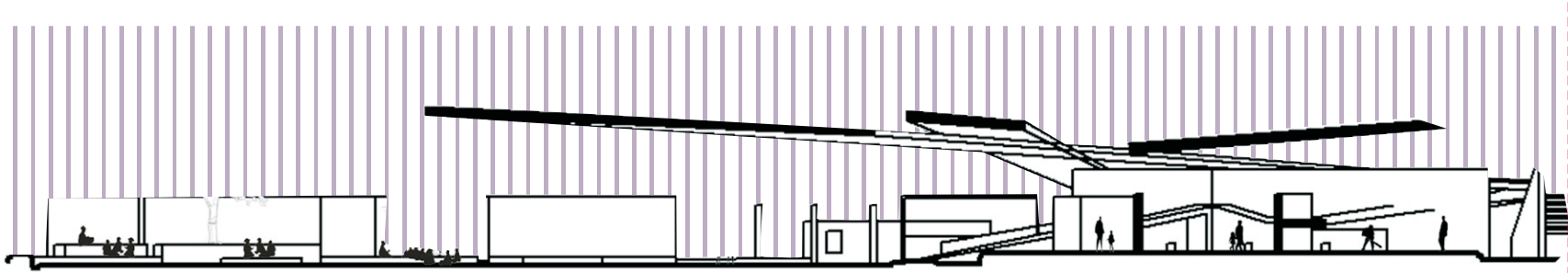
SECTION OF THE MARKET AT THE TIME OF FESTIVITIES



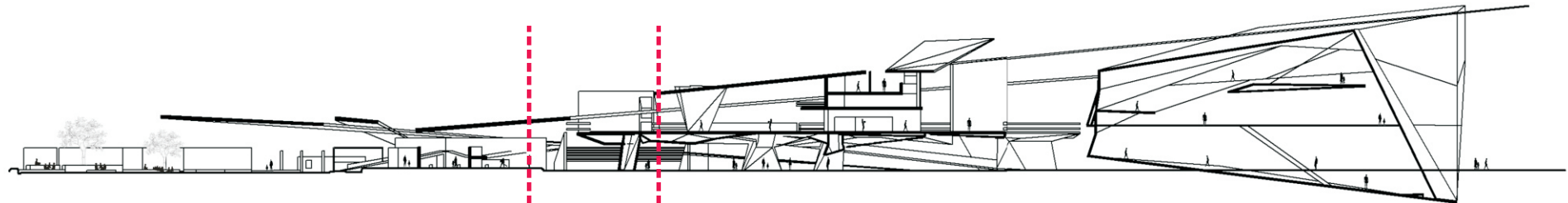
SECTION A-A'



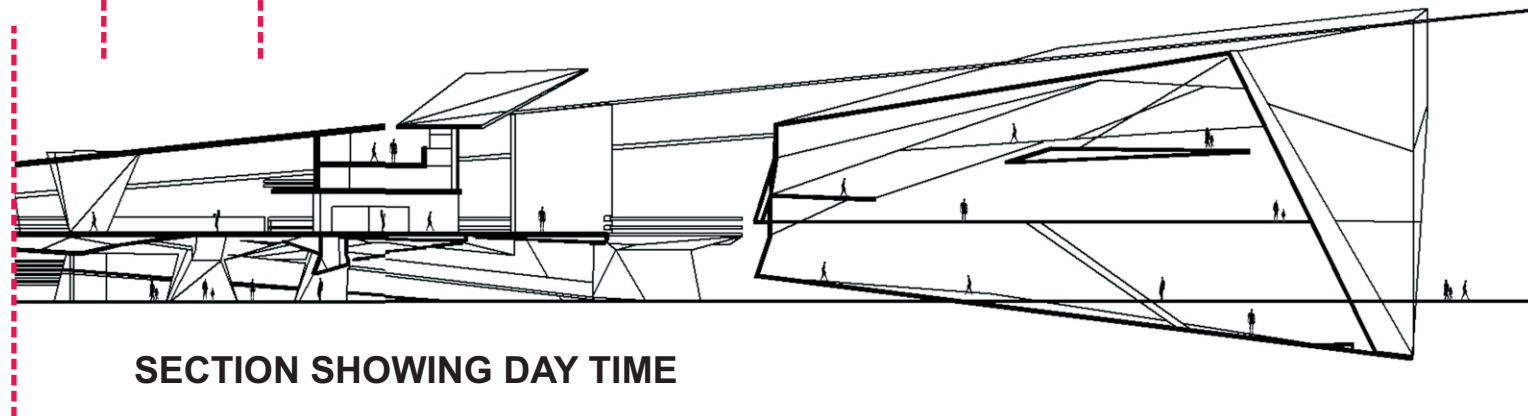
SECTION SHOWING EVENING TIME



SECTION OF DAILY ACTIVITIES



SECTION A-A'



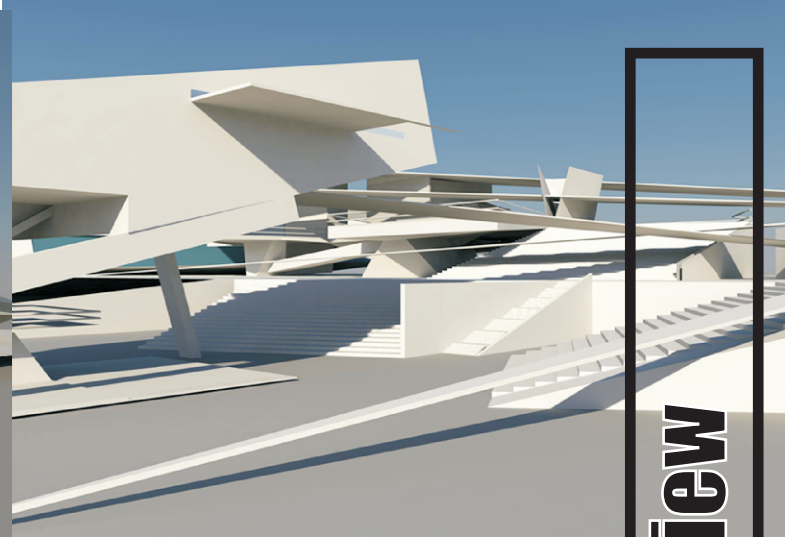
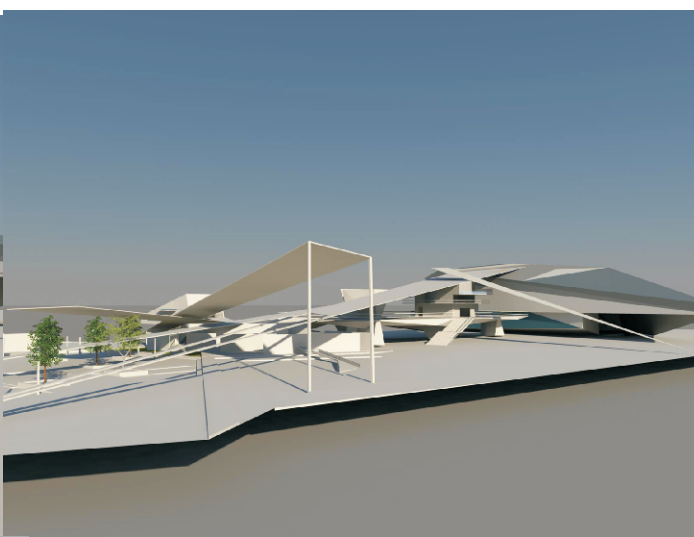
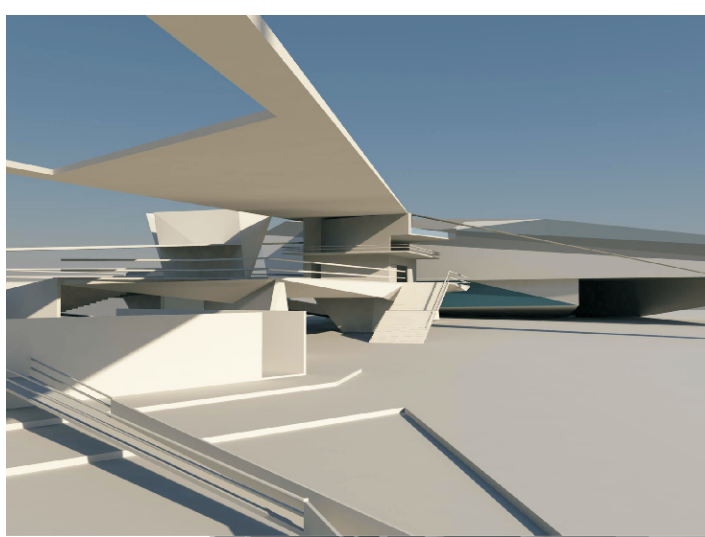
SECTION SHOWING DAY TIME

SECTION

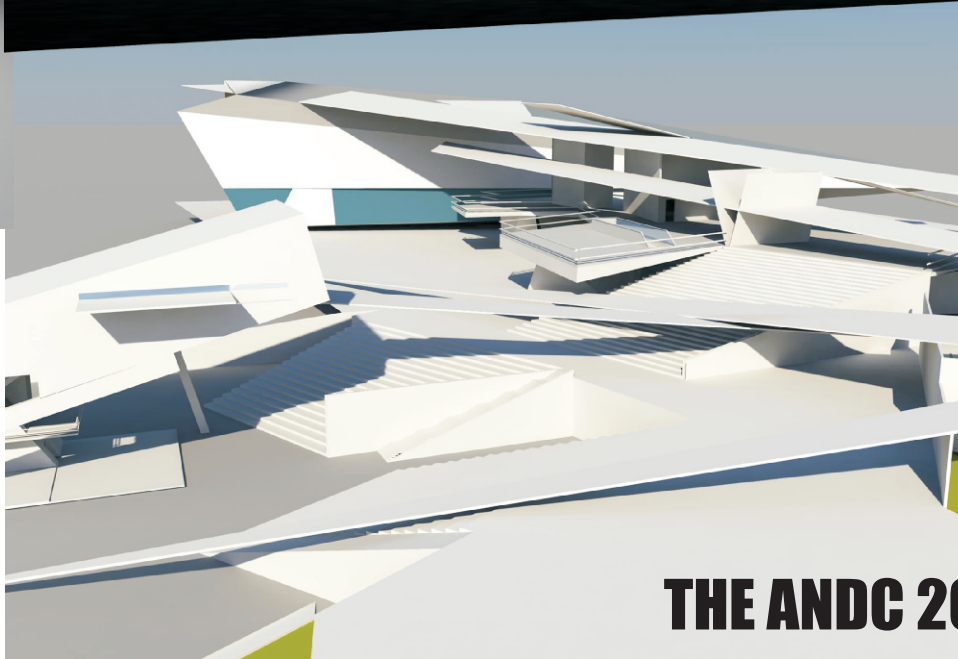
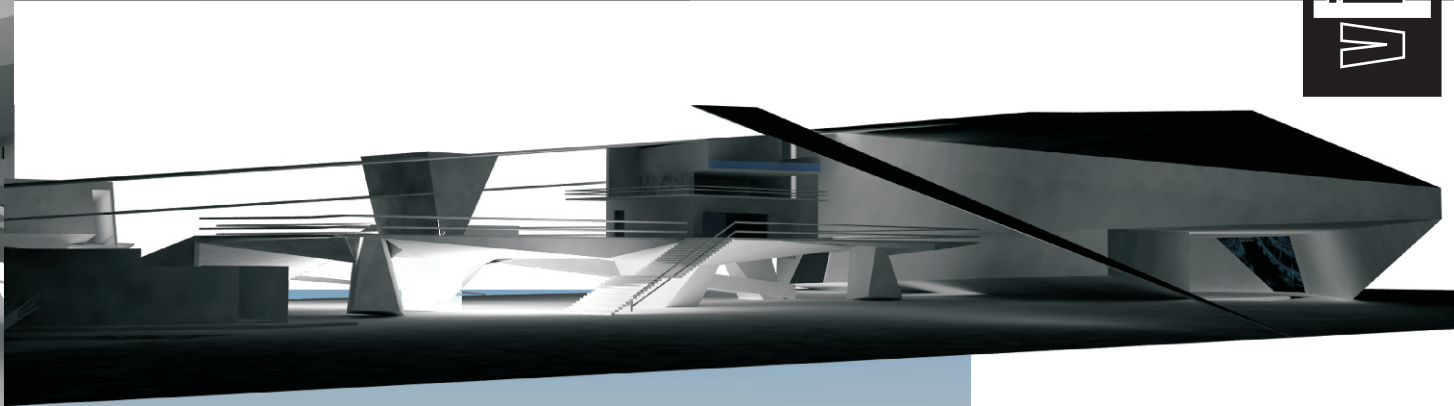
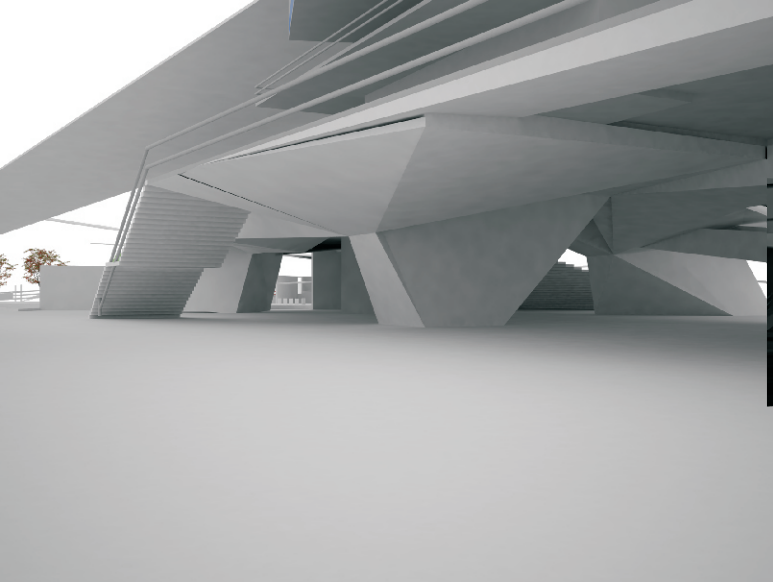
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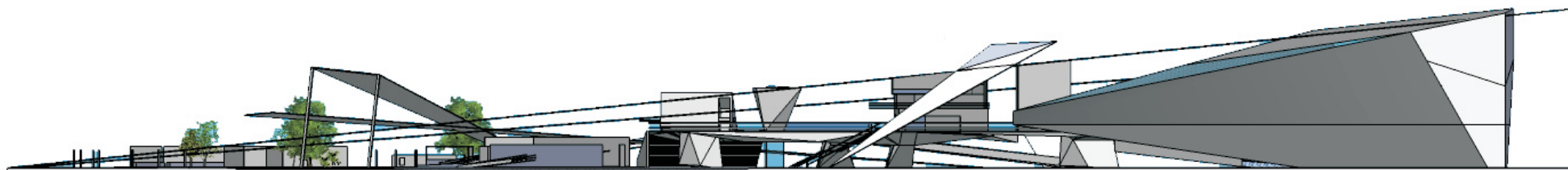
view



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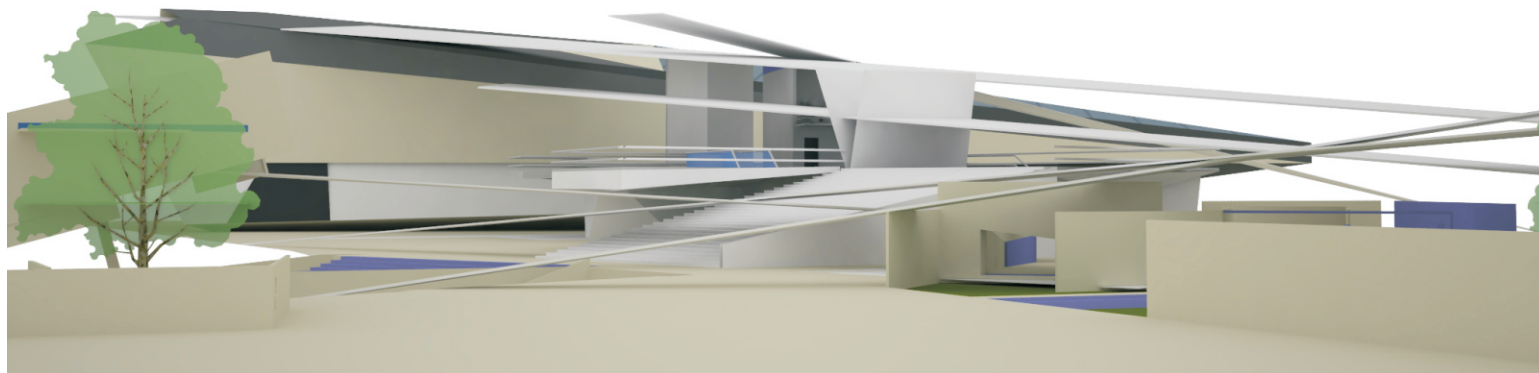


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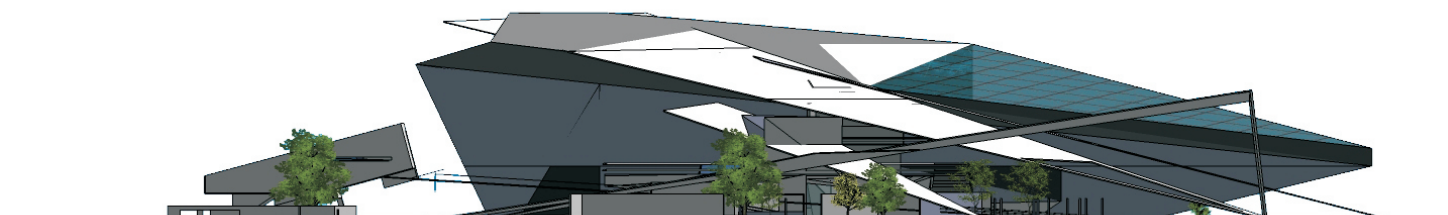


NORTH ELEVATION

ELEVATION



VIEW FROM THE PLAZA

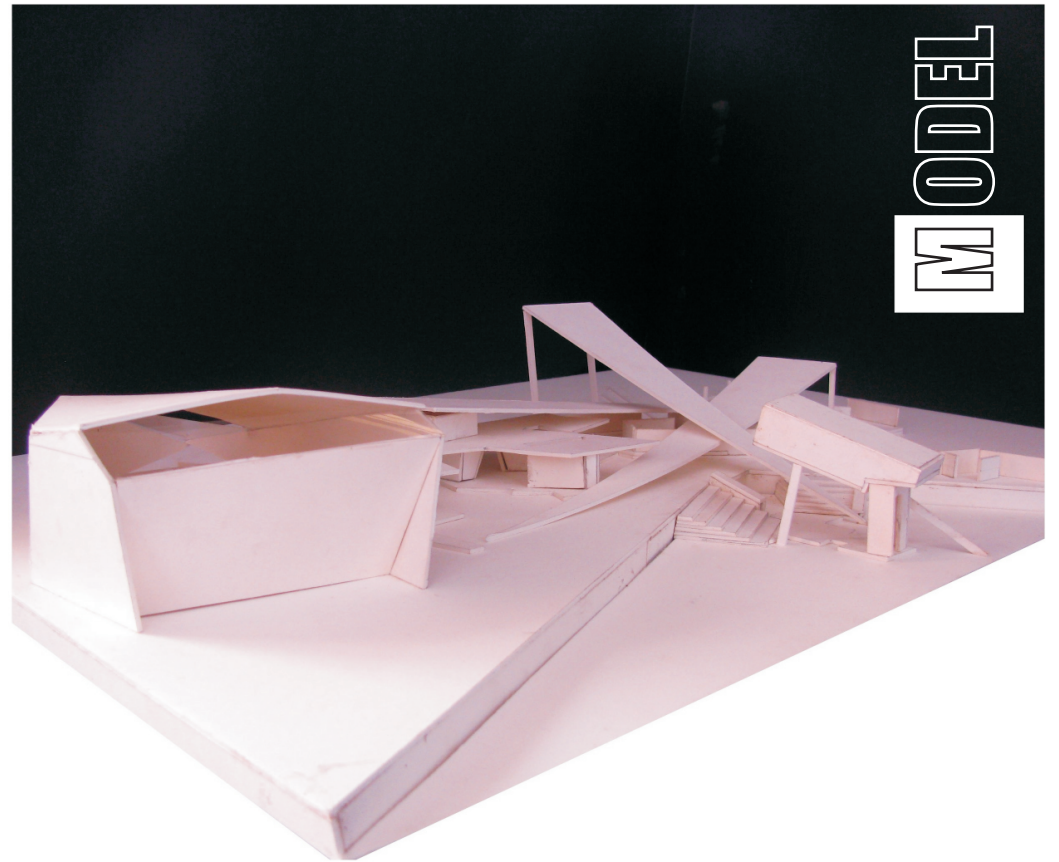
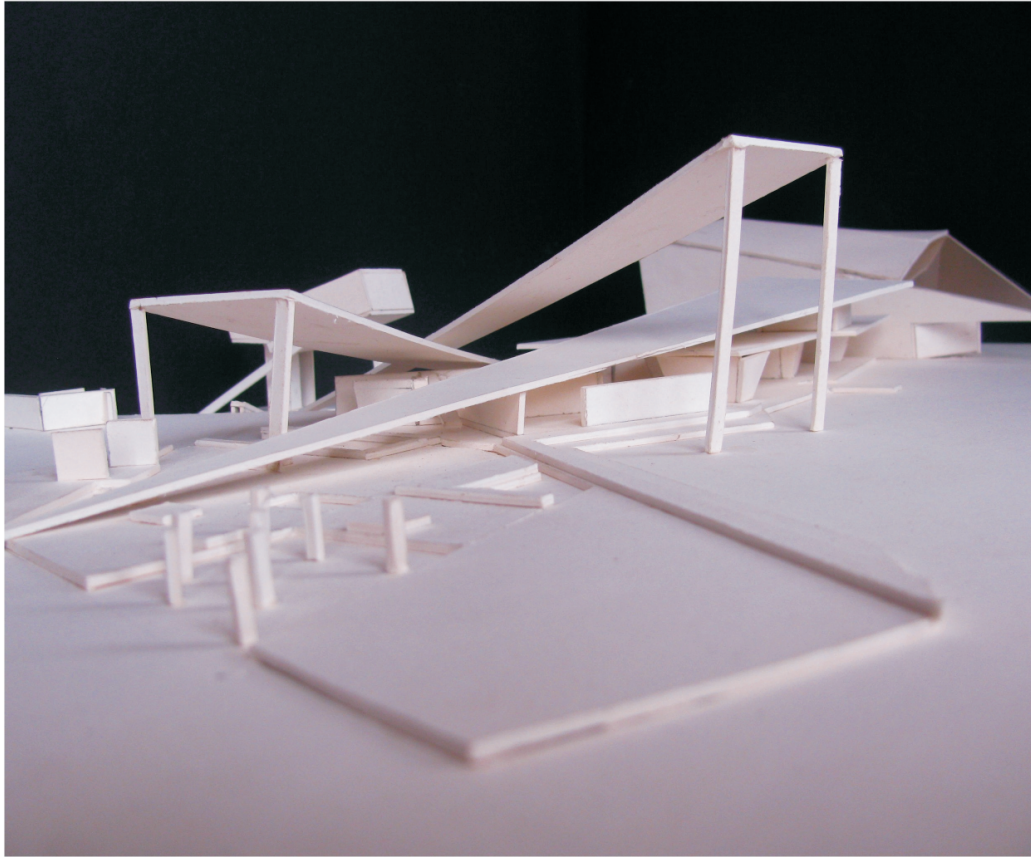
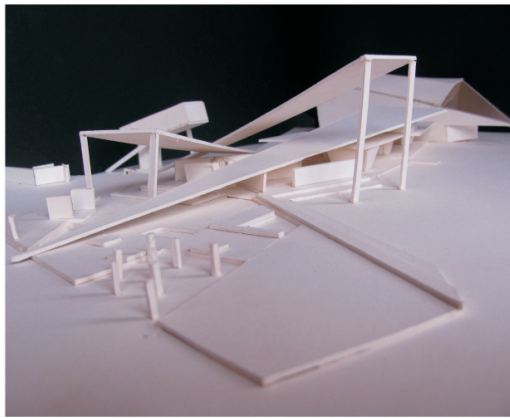
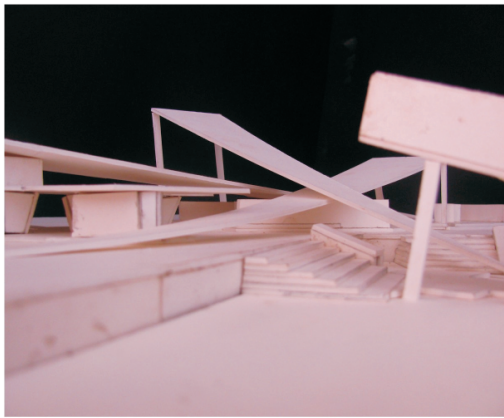


NORTH WEST ELEVATION

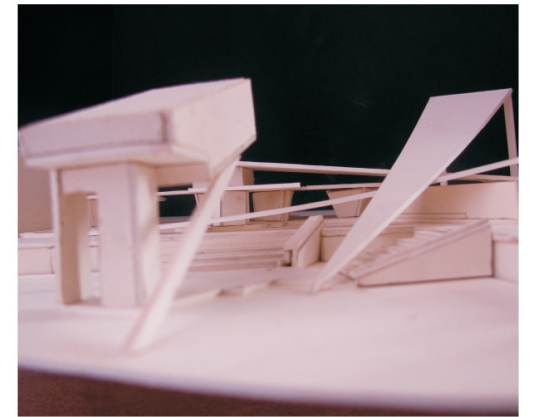
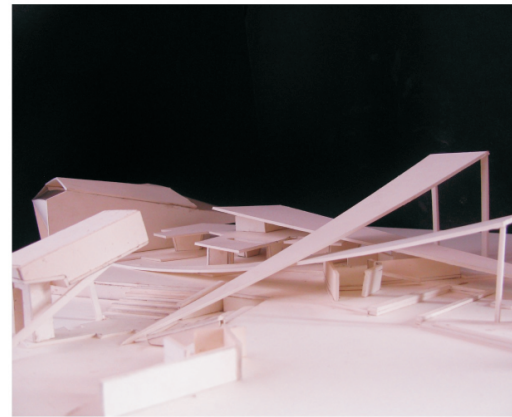
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MODEL



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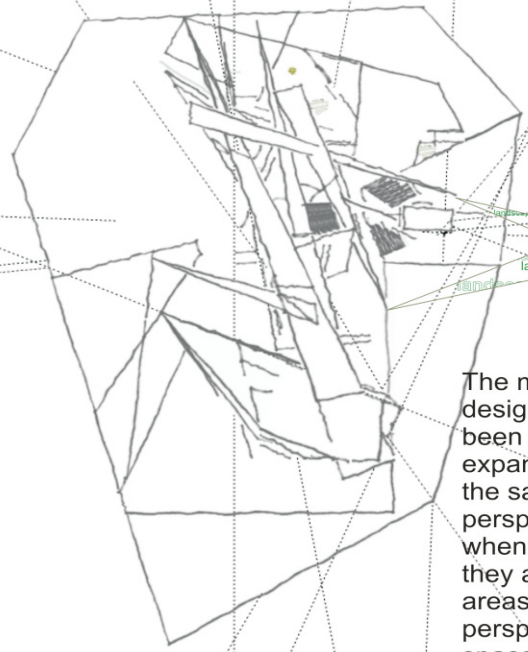


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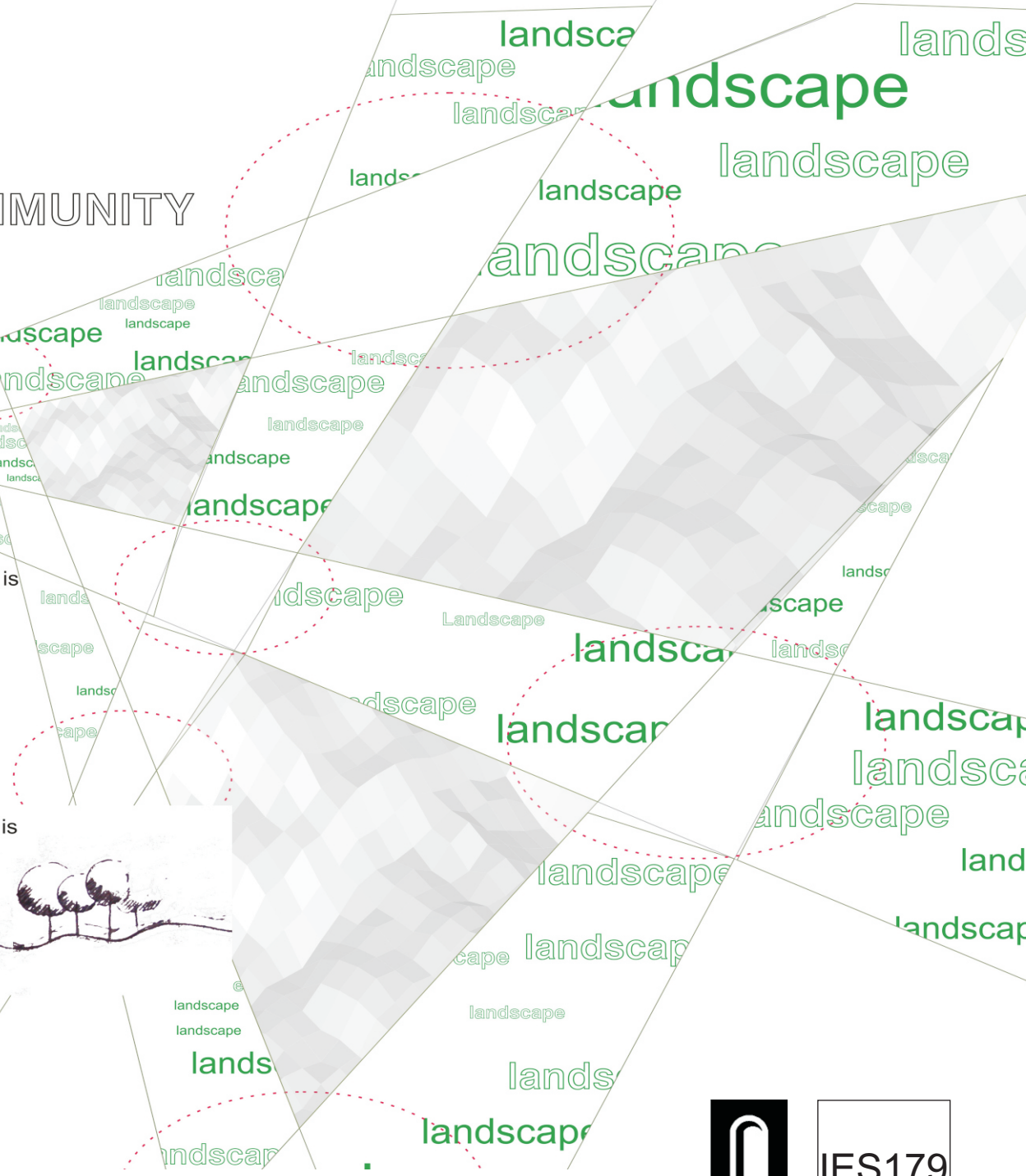
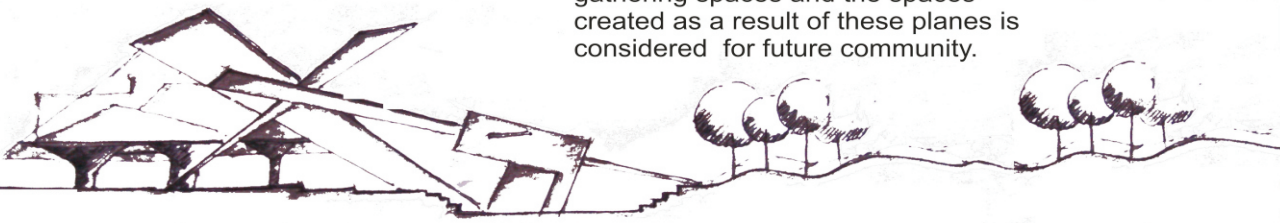
Transition state

HUB.....

.....COMMUNITY



The most important part of the design i.e the perspective ideology is been continued as to enable future expansion of the area beyond with the same thought process. The perspective planes in the design when brought to the ground level they are interpreted as landscape areas. The intersection of these perspective planes creates plaza spaces which can be utilized as gathering spaces and the spaces created as a result of these planes is considered for future community.



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